

What is Claimed is:

5 1. A method of publishing a product document for a client to end users on the Global Information Network for the purpose of disclosing information about a commercially available product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first Web site system and a publicly accessible database having stored therein a plurality of said product documents;

10 providing a search engine for use by said end users, wherein said search engine receives a search request from an end user and searches said database to locate one or more of said plurality of product documents corresponding to said search request;

allowing said end user access to said one or more of said plurality of product documents located by said search engine; and

15 receiving said product document from said client and adding said product document to said database;

wherein said product document comprises a primary document and one or more attachment files.

20 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment files include a sample deposition statement.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment files include an image of a sales brochure.

25 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment files include an image of a purchase order.

30 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment files include an image of a sales invoice.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment files include an image of a commercial Web site page.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment files include an image of a printed advertisement.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment files include a video clip.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment files include an audio clip.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of digitally notarizing said product document and obtaining a document notarization record, said document notarization record including a timestamp.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said document notarization record includes a digital fingerprint.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said step of digitally notarizing said product document and obtaining a document notarization record is performed by a second Web site in communication with said database.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of charging said client a fee for adding said product document to said database

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said fee is paid before said product document is added to said database.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of recording the number of times said product document is accessed by end users.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein said product document includes an earliest date of commercial availability of said product associated with said product document, and said method further comprises the step of transmitting to said client a notice of time remaining to file a patent application under applicable law on matter incorporated in said product based on said earliest date of commercial availability.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said earliest date of commercial availability is a date said product was first "on sale" in the United States under United States Patent Laws.

18. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of collecting and adding bibliographic data to said product document.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein said product document is sent by said client via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

21. A method of publishing a product document for a client to end users on the Global Information Network for the purpose of disclosing information about a commercially available product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first Web site system and a publicly accessible database having stored therein a plurality of said product documents;

providing a search engine for use by said end users, wherein said search engine receives a search request from an end user and searches said database to locate one or more of said plurality of product documents corresponding to said search request;

allowing said end user access to said one or more of said plurality of product documents located by said search engine;

receiving said product document from said client;

digitally notarizing said product document and obtaining a document notarization record, said document notarization record including a timestamp; and adding said product document to said database.

5           22. The method of claim 21, wherein said document notarization record includes a digital fingerprint.

10           23. The method of claim 21, wherein said step of digitally notarizing said product document and obtaining a document notarization record is performed by a second Web site system in communication with said database.

15           24. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of charging said client a fee for adding said product document to said database

20           25. The method of claim 24, wherein said fee is paid before said product document is added to said database.

25           26. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of recording the number of times said product document is accessed by end users.

30           27. The method of claim 21, wherein said product document includes an earliest date of commercial availability of said product associated with said product document, and said method further comprises the step of transmitting to said client a notice of time remaining to file a patent application under applicable law on matter incorporated in said product based on said earliest date of commercial availability.

35           28. The method of claim 27, wherein said earliest date of commercial availability is a date said product was first "on sale" in the United States under United States Patent Laws.

29. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of collecting and adding bibliographic data to said product document.

30. The method of claim 21, wherein said product document is sent by said client via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

32. A method of publishing a product document for a client to end users on the Global Information Network for the purpose of disclosing information about a commercially available product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first Web site system and a publicly accessible database having stored therein a plurality of said product documents;

providing a search engine for use by said end users, wherein said search engine receives a search request from an end user and searches said database to locate one or more of said plurality of product documents corresponding to said search request;

allowing said end user access to said one or more of said plurality of product documents located by said search engine;

receiving said product document from said client and adding said product document to said database; and

charging said client a fee for adding said product document to said database.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein said fee is paid before said product document is added to said database.

34. The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of recording the number of times said product document is accessed by end users.

35. The method of claim 32, wherein said product document includes an earliest date of commercial availability of said product associated with said product document, and said method further comprises the step of transmitting to said client a notice of time remaining to file a patent application under applicable law on matter incorporated in said product based on said earliest date of commercial availability.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein said earliest date of commercial availability is a date said product was first "on sale" in the United States under United States Patent Laws.

37. The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of collecting and adding bibliographic data to said product document.

38. The method of claim 32, wherein said product document is sent by said client via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

40. A method of publishing a product document for a client to end users on the Global Information Network for the purpose of disclosing information about a commercially available product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first Web site system and a publicly accessible database having stored therein a plurality of said product documents;

providing a search engine for use by said end users, wherein said search engine receives a search request from an end user and searches said database to locate one or more of said plurality of product documents corresponding to said search request;

allowing said end user access to said one or more of said plurality of product documents located by said search engine;

receiving said product document from said client and adding said product document to said database; and

recording the number of times said product document is accessed by end users.

5           41. The method of claim 40, wherein said product document includes an earliest date of commercial availability of said product associated with said product document, and said method further comprises the step of transmitting to said client a notice of time remaining to file a patent application under applicable law on matter incorporated in said product based on said earliest date of commercial availability.

10           42. The method of claim 41, wherein said earliest date of commercial availability is a date said product was first "on sale" in the United States under United States Patent Laws.

15           43. The method of claim 40, further comprising the step of collecting and adding bibliographic data to said product document.

20           44. The method of claim 40, wherein said product document is sent by said client via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client.

25           45. The method of claim 44, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

          46. A method of publishing a product document for a client to end users on the Global Information Network for the purpose of disclosing information about a commercially available product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said method comprising the steps of:

          providing a first Web site system and a publicly accessible database having stored therein a plurality of said product documents;

providing a search engine for use by said end users, wherein said search engine receives a search request from an end user and searches said database to locate one or more of said plurality of product documents corresponding to said search request;

allowing said end user access to said one or more of said plurality of product documents located by said search engine;

receiving a product document from said client, said product document including an earliest date of commercial availability of said product associated with said product document, and adding said product document to said database; and

transmitting to said client a notice of time remaining to file a patent application on matter incorporated in said product associated with said product document under applicable law based on said earliest date of commercial availability.

47. The method of claim 46, wherein said earliest date of commercial availability is a date said product was first "on sale" in the United States under United States Patent Laws.

48. The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of collecting and adding bibliographic data to said product document.

49. The method of claim 46, wherein said product document is sent by said client via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

51. A method of publishing a product document for a client to end users on the Global Information Network for the purpose of disclosing information about a commercially available product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first Web site system and a publicly accessible database having stored therein a plurality of said product documents;



providing a search engine for use by said end users, wherein said search engine receives a search request from an end user and searches said database to locate one or more of said plurality of product documents corresponding to said search request;

allowing said end user access to said one or more of said plurality of product documents located by said search engine;

receiving said product document from said client;

collecting and adding bibliographic data to said product document; and

adding said product document to said database.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein said product document is sent by said client via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client.

53. The method of claim 52, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

54. A method of publishing a product document for a client to end users on the Global Information Network for the purpose of disclosing information about a commercially available product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first Web site system and a publicly accessible database having stored therein a plurality of said product documents;

providing a search engine for use by said end users, wherein said search engine receives a search request from an end user and searches said database to locate one or more of said plurality of product documents corresponding to said search request;

allowing said end user access to said one or more of said plurality of product documents located by said search engine; and

receiving a product document from said client, wherein said product document is sent by said client via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client, and adding said product document to said database.

55. The method of claim 54, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

56. A system for publishing a product document for a client to end users on the Global Information Network for the purpose of disclosing information about a commercially available product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said system comprising:

a first Web site system including a computer system in communication with a publicly accessible database having stored therein a plurality of said product documents, said computer system being operable to receive said product document from said client's computer, said product document including a primary text document and one or more attachment files, and said computer system being operable to add said product document to said database; and

said computer system of said first Web site system being in further communication with a search engine for receiving a search request from an end user's computer and searching said database based on said search request for one or more matching product documents located from said plurality of product documents, said computer system of said first Web site system operating to retrieve said one or more matching product documents and transmit said one or more matching product documents to said end user's computer.

57. The system of claim 56, wherein said attachment files include a sample deposition statement.

58. The system of claim 56, wherein said attachment files include an image of a sales brochure.

59. The system of claim 56, wherein said attachment files include an image of a purchase order.

60. The system of claim 56, wherein said attachment files include an image of a sales invoice.

61. The system of claim 56, wherein said attachment files include an image of a commercial Web site page.

62. The system of claim 56, wherein said attachment files include an image of a printed advertisement.

63. The system of claim 56, wherein said attachment files include a video clip.

64. The system of claim 56, wherein said attachment files include an audio clip.

65. The system of claim 56, further comprising computer means for digitally notarizing said product document from said client's computer and generating a document notarization record including a timestamp.

66. The system of claim 65, wherein said document notarization record includes a digital fingerprint.

67. The system of claim 65, wherein said computer means for digitally notarizing said product document is included in a second Web site system.

68. The system of claim 56, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system is further operable to charge said client a fee for adding said product document to said database.

69. The system of claim 56, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system is further operable to record the number of times said product document is accessed by end users.

70. The system of claim 56, wherein said product document includes an earliest date of commercial availability of said product associated with said product document, and said computer system of said first Web site system is further operable to transmit to said client a notice of time remaining to file a patent application under applicable law on matter incorporated in said product based on said earliest date of commercial availability.

71. The system of claim 70, wherein said earliest date of commercial availability is a date said product was first "on sale" in the United States under United States Patent Laws.

72. The system of claim 56, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system is further operable to collect and add bibliographic data to said product document.

73. The system of claim 56, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system can receive said product document sent by said client via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client.

74. The system of claim 73, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

75. The system of claim 56, wherein said search engine is included in a third Web site system.

76. A system for publishing a product document for a client to end users on the Global Information Network for the purpose of disclosing information about a commercially available product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said system comprising:

5 a first Web site system including a computer system in communication with a publicly accessible database having stored therein a plurality of said product documents, said computer system being operable to receive said product document from said client's computer and said computer system being operable to add said product document to said database;

computer means for digitally notarizing said product document from said client's computer and generating a document notarization record including a timestamp; and

10 said computer system of said first Web site system being in further communication with a search engine for receiving a search request from an end user's computer and searching said database based on said search request for one or more matching product documents located from said plurality of product documents, said computer system of said first Web site system operating to retrieve said one or more matching product documents and transmit said one or more matching product documents to said end user's computer.

15 77. The system of claim 76, wherein said document notarization record includes a digital fingerprint.

20 78. The system of claim 76, wherein said computer means for digitally notarizing said product document is included in a second Web site system.

25 79. The system of claim 76, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system is further operable to charge said client a fee for adding said product document to said database.

80. The system of claim 76, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system is further operable to record the number of times said product document is accessed by end users.

5 81. The system of claim 76, wherein said product document includes an earliest date of commercial availability of said product associated with said product document, and said computer system of said first Web site system is further operable to transmit to said client a notice of time remaining to file a patent application under applicable law on matter incorporated in said product based on said earliest date of commercial availability.

82. The system of claim 81, wherein said earliest date of commercial availability is a date said product was first "on sale" in the United States under United States Patent Laws.

10 83. The system of claim 76, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system is further operable to collect and add bibliographic data to said product document.

15 84. The system of claim 76, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system can receive said product document sent by said client via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client.

85. The system of claim 84, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

20 86. The system of claim 76, wherein said search engine is included in a third Web site system.

25 87. A system for publishing a product document for a client to end users on the Global Information Network for the purpose of disclosing information about a commercially available product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said system comprising:

5 a first Web site system including a computer system in communication with a publicly accessible database having stored therein a plurality of said product documents, said computer system being operable to receive said product document from said client's computer, and said computer system being operable to add said product document to said database and charge said client a fee for adding said product document to said database; and

10 said computer system of said first Web site system being in further communication with a search engine for receiving a search request from an end user's computer and searching said database based on said search request for one or more matching product documents located from said plurality of product documents, said computer system of said first Web site system operating to retrieve said one or more matching product documents and transmit said one or more matching product documents to said end user's computer.

15 88. The system of claim 87, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system is further operable to record the number of times said product document is accessed by end users.

20 89. The system of claim 87, wherein said product document includes an earliest date of commercial availability of said product associated with said product document, and said computer system of said first Web site system is further operable to transmit to said client a notice of time remaining to file a patent application under applicable law on matter incorporated in said product based on said earliest date of commercial availability.

25 90. The system of claim 89, wherein said earliest date of commercial availability is a date said product was first "on sale" in the United States under United States Patent Laws.

91. The system of claim 87, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system is further operable to collect and add bibliographic data to said product document.

92. The system of claim 87, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system can receive said product document sent by said client via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client.

5 93. The system of claim 92, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

94. The system of claim 87, wherein said search engine is included in a third Web site system.

10 95. A system for publishing a product document for a client to end users on the Global Information Network for the purpose of disclosing information about a commercially available product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said system comprising:

15 a first Web site system including a computer system in communication with a publicly accessible database having stored therein a plurality of said product documents, said computer system being operable to receive said product document from said client's computer and said computer system being operable to add said product document to said database; and

20 said computer system of said first Web site system being in further communication with a search engine for receiving a search request from an end user's computer and searching said database based on said search request for one or more matching product documents located from said plurality of product documents, said computer system of said first Web site system operating to retrieve said one or more matching product documents and  
25 transmit said one or more matching product documents to said end user's computer, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system records the number of times each of said plurality of product documents is accessed by end users.



5 96. The system of claim 95, wherein said product document includes an earliest date of commercial availability of said product associated with said product document, and said computer system of said first Web site system is further operable to transmit to said client a notice of time remaining to file a patent application under applicable law on matter incorporated in said product based on said earliest date of commercial availability.

97. The system of claim 96, wherein said earliest date of commercial availability is a date said product was first "on sale" in the United States under United States Patent Laws.

10 98. The system of claim 95, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system is further operable to collect and add bibliographic data to said product document.

15 99. The system of claim 95, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system can receive said product document sent by said client via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client.

100. The system of claim 99, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

20 101. The system of claim 95, wherein said search engine is included in a third Web site system.

25 102. A system for publishing a product document for a client to end users on the Global Information Network for the purpose of disclosing information about a commercially available product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said system comprising:

5 a first Web site system including a computer system in communication with a publicly accessible database having stored therein a plurality of said product documents, said computer system being operable to receive said product document from said client's computer and add said product document to said database, said product document including an earliest date of commercial availability of said product associated with said product document, and said computer system of said first Web site system being further operable to transmit to said client a notice of time remaining to file a patent application under applicable law on matter incorporated in said product associated with said product document based on said earliest date of commercial availability; and

10 said computer system of said first Web site system being in further communication with a search engine for receiving a search request from an end user's computer and searching said database based on said search request for one or more matching product documents located from said plurality of product documents, said computer system of said first Web site system operating to retrieve said one or more matching product documents and transmit said one or more matching product documents to said end user's computer.

15 103. The system of claim 102, wherein said earliest date of commercial availability is a date said product was first "on sale" in the United States under United States Patent Laws.

20 104. The system of claim 102, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system is further operable to collect and add bibliographic data to said product document.

25 105. The system of claim 102, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system can receive said product document sent by said client via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client.

30 106. The system of claim 105, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

107. The system of claim 102, wherein said search engine is included in a third Web site system.

108. A system for publishing a product document for a client to end users on the Global Information Network for the purpose of disclosing information about a commercially available product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said system comprising:

a first Web site system including a computer system in communication with a publicly accessible database having stored therein a plurality of said product documents, said computer system being operable to receive said product document from said client's computer and add said product document to said database, said computer system of said first Web site system being further operable to collect and add bibliographic data to said product document; and

said computer system of said first Web site system being in further communication with a search engine for receiving a search request from an end user's computer and searching said database based on said search request for one or more matching product documents located from said plurality of product documents, said computer system of said first Web site system operating to retrieve said one or more matching product documents and transmit said one or more matching product documents to said end user's computer.

109. The system of claim 108, wherein said computer system of said first Web site system can receive said product document sent by said client via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client.

110. The system of claim 109, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

111. The system of claim 108, wherein said search engine is included in a third Web site system.

112. A system for publishing a product document for a client to end users on the Global Information Network for the purpose of disclosing information about a commercially available product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said system comprising:

a first Web site system including a computer system in communication with a publicly accessible database having stored therein a plurality of said product documents, said computer system being operable to receive said product document from said client's computer when said product document is sent by said client via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client, and said computer system being operable to add said product document to said database; and

said computer system of said first Web site system being in further communication with a search engine for receiving a search request from an end user's computer and searching said database based on said search request for one or more matching product documents located from said plurality of product documents, said computer system of said first Web site system operating to retrieve said one or more matching product documents and transmit said one or more matching product documents to said end user's computer.

113. The system of claim 112, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

114. The system of claim 112, wherein said search engine is included in a third Web site system.